

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system for directing an optical image on an electric image sensor, said zoom lens system comprising:
  - a first lens unit disposed on a most object side and having a negative optical power;
  - a second lens unit having a positive optical power; and
  - a following lens unit including having at least a third lens unit and a fourth lens unit, wherein at least one lens unit included in the following lens unit has and having at least a positive lens element and a negative lens element, element in a lens unit,wherein the following condition is satisfied:
$$3 < | f_l/f_w |$$
where  $f_l$  is a focal length of the most image side lens unit, and  $f_w$  is a focal length of the zoom lens system in a shortest focal length ~~condition~~ condition; and
  - wherein the focusing is performed by moving on the optical axis a positive single lens element disposed in a position on the image side of a diaphragm, the positive single lens element not included in the most image side lens unit.
2. (Previously Presented) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the most image side lens unit has a positive optical power.
3. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the most image side lens unit has a negative optical power.
4. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the most image side lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first lens unit includes only one negative lens element.

7. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first lens unit is moved so as to draw a locus convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

8. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the zoom lens ~~systems satisfy~~ system satisfies the following condition:

$$\nu 1 > 45$$

where  $\nu 1$  is the Abbe number of ~~[[the]]~~ a single negative lens element constituting the first lens unit.

9. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the zoom lens ~~systems satisfy~~ system satisfies the following condition:

$$2.3 \leq f_t/f_w \leq 5.5$$

where  $f_w$  is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length, and  $f_t$  is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

10. (Currently Amended) An image capturing device comprising:  
~~an electric image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data, and~~  
a zoom lens system, said zoom lens system ~~comprising, including:~~  
a first lens unit disposed on a most object side and having a negative optical power;  
a second lens unit having a positive optical power; and  
a following lens unit ~~having~~ including at least a third lens unit and a fourth lens unit,  
wherein at least one lens unit included in the following lens unit has ~~and having~~ at least a positive lens element and a negative lens ~~element in a lens unit, element,~~

wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 < | fl/fw |$$

where fl is a focal length of the most image side lens unit, and fw is a focal length of the zoom lens system in a shortest focal length ~~condition~~; condition; and

wherein the focusing is performed by moving on the optical axis a positive single lens element disposed in a position on the image side of a diaphragm, the positive single lens element not included in the most image side lens unit, and

an electric image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system into electric image data.

11. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:

~~an electric image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data, and~~

a zoom lens system, said zoom lens system ~~comprising~~, including:

a first lens unit disposed on a most object side and having a negative optical power;

a second lens unit having a positive optical power; and

a following lens unit including ~~having~~ at least a third lens unit and a fourth lens unit, wherein at least one lens unit included in the following lens unit ~~has and having~~ at least a positive lens element and a negative lens ~~element in a lens unit~~, element,

wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 < | fl/fw |$$

where fl is a focal length of the most image side lens unit, and fw is a focal length of the zoom lens system in a shortest focal length ~~condition~~; condition; and

wherein the focusing is performed by moving on the optical axis a positive single lens element disposed in a position on the image side of a diaphragm, the positive single lens element not included in the most image side lens unit, and

an electric image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system into electric image data.